THE CHIEFE GROUNDS OF CHRISTIAN RELIGION, set down by way of Catechizing.

Gathered long since for the use of an Honourable Family.

By EZEKIEL ROGERS, Minister of Gods Word sometime of [illegible] in *Tonk-shire*, now in *New-England*.

GEN. 18. 17, 19.

Shall I hide from Abraham *that thing which I do? for I know him, that he will command his sons and his houshold after him, that they keep the way of the Lord.*

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2

THE CHIEFE GROUNDS OF Christian Religion.

Question.

Wherfore hath God given to man a reasonable, and an immortall soul.

A. That he above all other creatures should seek Gods glory, and his own salvation. Eccl. 12. 13.

Q. Where is he taught how this is to be done? Io. 5. 39.

A. In the Scriptures, or Word of God.

Q. What are the Scriptures? *Scriptures.*

A. The Canonicall books of the Old and New-Testament. 2 Pet. 1. 21.

Q. What do the Scriptures teach us?

A. The true knowledge of [a] God, and of [b] our selves. [a] Io. 17. 3. [b] Reve. 3. 17.

The first generall head; of God. *God.*

Q. What is God?

A. God is [c] one holy [d] Spirit, having [e] being of himself. [c] 1 Cor. 8. 6. [d] Io. 4. 24. [e] Exo. 3. 14.

Q. How is the nature of God further made known to us?

A. By his [f] properties, [g] and works. [f] Exo. 34. 6. [g] Rom. 1. 20.

Properties.

Q. Which be his chief properties?

a 1 Kings 8.27. b Psal. 90, 2. c Psal 102 27.

A. [a] Infiniteness, [b] Eternity, [c] Unchangeablenesse: To which may be added his Understanding, Will, and Power.

Q. How many persons be there in the Godhead?

Persons.

1 Iohn 5. 7.

A. Three, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Q. If every person be God, then there be three Gods.

A. Every person is that one, and the same God.

Works.

Q. Which be the works of God?

A. His Decree, and the fulfilling therof.

Decree.

Q. What is the Decree of God?

Eph. 1. 11.

A. His purpose or appointment with himself, how all things should be, before any thing was made.

Q. What is his decree concerning Angels and Men?

Predestination.

A. That which the Scripture calleth Predestination.

Q. Which be the parts of it?

Election.
Reprobation.

A. Election and Reprobation.

Q. How hath God fulfilled this decree?

Ro 9. 13 22.

A. By creation and providence.

Q. What was the Creation?

Creation.

Col. 1. 16.

A. The making of all things of nothing very good.

Providence.

Q. What is his Providence?

A. The

A. The [a] upholding and [b] governing of that which he had made. [a] Iohn 5. 17. [b] Matth. 10. 29.

Q. Concerning the reasonable Creatures, first, how did God govern the Angels? *Angels.*

A. By teaching them all; by leaving the evill to themselves, and confirming the Elect. 2 Pet. 2. 4. 1 Tim. 5. 21.

The second generall Head of Man. *Man.*

Q. What doth the Scripture teach us concerning Man?

A. His fourfold estate, of innocency, misery, grace, and immortality. *His fourefold estate.*

The first Estate.

Q. Wherein consisted mans innocency? *Innocency.*

A. That he was created in *Adam* according to Gods Image. Gen. 1. 27.

Q. What was this Image of God? *Image of God.*

A. A likenesse to God in his holy properties. Col. 3 10.

Q. What priviledge had man hereby? *Happinesse.*

A. All inward and outward happines.

Q. How did God govern man in this estate?

A. By [c] teaching him, and making a Covenant with him. [c] Gen. 2. 26.

Q. What was that Covenant? *Covenant of Nature.*

A. Do this, and thou shalt live. Gal. 3. 12.

The second estate of misery. *Misery.*

Q. Did man continue in this happinesse and Covenant?

Fall.
Rom. 3. 23.

A. No, for he fell away from God.

Q. *How came this to passe?*

A. Being left of God to the liberty of his will, through his own weakness, he was overcome by Satans temptation.

Gen. 3. 1.

Adams sin.
Gen. 3 7.

Q. *What was* Adams *sin?*

A. Disobedience against God, in eating the forbidden fruit.

Q. *What followed hereupon?*

Punishment.
Rom. 8. 20.

A. A miserable condition on himself, and all the creatures.

Q. *What upon himself?*

[a] Rom. 3. 23.
[b] Gen 3. 8.
[c] Rom. 5. 12.

A. [a] Losse of Gods Image; [b] guiltines of conscience; [c] death temporall, and eternall.

Q. *Came this only upon* Adam?

Rom. 5. 18.

A. No, all we being in his loyns, were partakers of his sin and punishment.

Sin.
1 Ioh. 3. 4.

Q. *Shew now what is sin?*

A. Every transgression or swarving from the Law.

Q. *How many sorts of sins are there?*

A. Two, Originall and Actuall.

Originall sin.
Psal. 51. 5.

Q. *What is Originall sin?*

A. The corruption or stain of our nature, wherein we were born.

[a] Heb. 7 9.
[b] Rom 7 14.
[c] Rom 7 7.

Q. *What else is contained in it?*

A. [a] Guiltinesse of *Adams* sin, [b] proneness to all evill, and concupiscence.

Actuall sin.

Q. *What is actuall sin?*

A. The

A. The fruit of originall, in evill thoughts, words, and deeds. Iam. 1. 15. Mat. 15. 19.

Q. *Are we able to bear or avoyd that fearfull punishment of sin?*

A. No, nor any meer creature for us. Acts 4 12.

The third estate of Grace. *Grace.*

Q. *Is there no means to come out of this misery, and to be reconciled to God?*

A. Yes, [d] God of his mercy hath found out a means, by making a [e] new Covenant with us, in Jesus Christ. [d] Ioh. 3. 16. [e] Gal 3. 17. *Covenant of Grace.* Col. 1. 20.

Q. *Is it the same Covenant in the Old and New-Testament?*

A. The same for substance, but divers for manner of revealing. Heb. 1. 1.

Q. *What was this Jesus Christ?* *Christ.*

A. Both [a] God and man, in one Person. [a] Rom 1 4. *His Natures.*

Q. *Why must he be both God and man?* [b] Rom 1. 3.

A. Man, that in [d] our own nature he might [e] suffer; and God, that he might [f] overcome death for us. [c] Col 2. 9 [d] Heb. 2. 16. [e] Prov. 14. [f] Heb. 7. 25, 26.

Q. *What is his office?* *Office.*

A. To be [g] Mediator between God and Man. [g] Heb. 9. 15.

Q. *Which be the parts of his office?*

A. That he is our Prophet, Priest, and King.

Q. *How is he our Prophet?* *Propheticall.*

A. By revealing to us the will of his Father. Ioh. 15. 15. Heb. 1. 2.

Q. How is he our Priest?

Priestly. Rev 5.9.

A. By working the merit of our Redemption.

Q. How wrought he it?

Phil 2.7 v. 9.

A. In the twofold estate of his humilition and glorification.

Q. What were the degrees of his humiliation?

In his humiliation.

A. Three, his Incarnation; poor life; death and passion.

Q. What did Christ in this Estate?

Phil. 2 8. Rom 8 3 4.

A. He suffered and fulfilled whatsoever our nature was bound to.

Q. What were the degrees of his glorification?

Glorification.

[a] Act. 2 31. [b] Act. 1.9. [c] Eph 1 20.

A. Three also; his [a] resurrection, [b] ascension, and [c] sitting at the right hand of his Father.

Q. What hath Christ wrought by all these?

Redemption. Heb. 7 25.

A. Our full Redemption, and doth still make intercession for us.

Q. What doth Christ as he is our King?

Kingly office. Iob. 3.35.

A. He governs the Church, both visible & invisible, & shal be iudge of the world.

Q. What is the visible Church?

Church. *Visible.* Mat. 13 47.

A. A company of men professing the worship of the true God.

Q. What is the invisible Church?

Invisible. [d] 1 Pet. 2 9. [e] 1 Ioh. 1 3.7.

A. The number of the [d] Elect, who have [e] communion together; whether Militant or Triumphant.

Q. How doth Christ govern the visible Church?

A. First,

A. First, by a [f] generall calling of all; Secondly, by an [g] effectuall calling of the Elect, whereby the benefits of his mediation are applyed to them.

Calling.
[f] Mat. 20. 16.
[g] Ioh. 14. 6.

Q. *By what means doth he apply these benefits to the Elect?*

Preaching of the Word.

A. Ordinarily, by the outward [h] preaching of the Law and Gospel, [i] and the inward working of the spirit.

[h] Rom. 10. 17.
[i] Acts 16. 14.

Q. *What doth the Spirit work in them, by the preaching of the Law?*

Law.

A. A [a] sight of their sinne and misery, and [b] trouble of heart for it, whereby they are brought to [c] see need of Christ.

[a] Rom. 3. 20. Rom. 7. 7.
[b] Rom. 7. 10. Acts 2. 37.
[c] Gal. 3. 24.

Q. *What worketh it by the Gospel?*

Gospel.

A. An earnest and constant [d] desire of Christ, even till they can apply him.

[d] Luk. 15. 19. Mar. 9. 24.

Q. *What is that grace whereby we apply Christ?*

A. Justifying faith or beleeving, which is the first and main thing in the [e] Covenant on our part.

[e] Gal. 3. 17. Acts 16. 31.

Q. *What is this faith?*

Faith.

A. It is such a receiving of Christ, who is offered in the promises of the Gospel, as whereby I come to be perswaded, that all he hath done, is for me.

Ioh. 1. 12. 1 Io. 5. 10. 11.

Q. *Which be the chief lets of faith?*

Lets of it.

A. [f] Want of the means, or [g] error in the use of them.

[f] Mat. 4. 16.
[g] 2 Cor 4. 4. Luk. 14. 18, 19

Q. *Is*

Q. *Is the greatest measure of Faith wrought at the first?*

A. No, but by degrees.

Degrees.
Luke 17. 5.
Mar. 8. 26.

Q. *Which be those graces or affections that accompany Faith more or lesse, as it is stronger or weaker?*

Companions.

A. [h] Peace of conscience, [i] love, [k] joy, [l] thankfulness, [m] desire of Gods presence, [n] hope, &c.

[h] Rom. 5. 1.
[i] Luke 7. 47.
[k] Acts 8. 39.
[l] Psal. 116. 12.
[m] Phil. 1. 23.
[n] Rom. 5. 4.

Q. *What are those benefits or priviledges that we receive by Faith in this life?*

Priviledges.

A. Three especially; Justification, Adoption, and Sanctification.

Q. *What is Justification?*

Justification.

A. It is that whereby God accounts us righteous through Christs merits.

2 Cor. 5. 21.

Q. *How is that done?*

Rom. 5. 19.

A. By laying our sin and punishment on him, and imputing his righteousnes to us.

Q. *What is Adoption?*

Adoption.

A. That whereby we are made the children of God, and heirs with Christ.

Rom. 8. 17.

Q. *What is Sanctification?*

Sanctification.

A. The purifying of our whole nature.

Tit. 3. 5.

Q. *Which be the parts of it?*

Rom. 6. 11.

A. Mortifying and quickning.

Q. *How is our nature purified?*

1 Thes. 5. 23.

A. Both in soul and body.

Q. *How the soul?*

Of the soul.

A. In the faculties of the [o] imagination,

2 Eph. 4. 23.

[p] Under-

[p] Understanding, [q] Conscience, the Heart (which is the [r] Will and [s] Affections) and the [t] Memory.

[p] Pro. 2. 5 9.
[q] Acts 24. 16.
[r] Rom. 7. 18.
[s] Gal. 5. 21.
[t] Psal. 19 16.

Q. *How the body?*

A. The members thereof are made weapons of righteousnesse.

Bodie. Rom. 6. 13.

Q. *But what is that grace that necessarily followeth all these in the beleever?*

A. Repentance; which is the second part of our Covenant.

Repentance. Mark 1. 15.

Q. *What is Repentance, as it is here taken?*

A. [b] It is a fruit of faith, which from the feeling of Gods love, and [c] sorrow for sin, bringeth forth a [d] new life.

[b] Gal. 5. 6.
2 Cor. 5. 14.
[c] 2 Cor. 6. 9.
New life.
[d] 2 Cor. 5. 17.

Q. *Wherein doth it consist?*

A. [e] First, in the hatred and forsaking of all evill. Secondly, in an earnest desire to please God in all things, alwaies: which is our doing of [f] good works.

[e] Esay 1. 16, 17.
[f] Acts 26. 20.
Good works. Exo. 38. 36, 37.

Q. *Can we then do good Works?*

A. Not perfectly, but God accepts of them through Christ his Intercession.

Q. *What rule have we to teach us, what evill to leave, and good to do?*

Rule of godlinesse.

A. The Law of God in the ten Commandements.

Law. Exod. 20. 1.

Q. *How many Tables is the Law divided into.*

A. Two, the first, containing four Commandements, the other six.

Two Tables.

Q. *What*

Q. What is the sum of the 1. Commandment?

Com. 1. A. That we chuse the true God for our God, and set our hearts upon him.

Q. What is the summe of the second?

Com. 2. A. That we worship him only, and that with his own worship.

Q. What the third?

Com. 3. A. That we use his Name reverently at all times, as well as in his solemn worship.

Q. What the fourth?

Com. 4. A. That we worship him more specially on the Sabbath.

Q. What is the summe of the second Table?

Com. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. A. That we maintain our neighbours and our own 5. Dignity, 6. Life, 7. Chastity, 8. goods, 9. good-Name; yea even in our, 10. first thoughts.

Helps of godliness. *Q. What helps and means have we to grow in godlinesse?*

A. Many both publike and private.

Q. Which be the publike?

Publike. A. Either extraordinary, as holy [a] Fasting and [b] Feasting; or ordinary, as the use of the Word preached [d] and read, the Sacraments, prayer, and [e] discipline.

[a] Est. 4. 16.
[b] 2 Chr. 20. 26.
[c] Neh 8. 4.
[d] Deut. 31. 11.
[e] Mat. 18. 15, 16, 17.

Q. What are the Sacraments?

Sacraments. A. The visible signs and seals of the Covenant, ordained of God to represent and confirm the same unto us.

Rom. 4. 11.

Q. How many Sacra: are there in the gospel?

A. [a] Two

A. [a] Two only, Baptisme, and the Lords Supper, as under the Law were [b] Circumcision and the [c] Passeover.

[a] 1 Cor. 11. 2, 3.
[b] Gen. 17. 10.
[c] Exo. 12. 11.

Q. VVhat is Baptisme?

Baptisme.

A. A Sacrament of our new birth, or entrance into the state of Grace.

Gal. 3. 23.

Q. VVhat is the Lords Supper?

Lords Supper.

A. A Sacrament of our growth and increase in Grace.

1 Cor. 10. 16.
1 Cor. 1. 26.

Q. VVhat is Prayer?

Prayer.

A. It is a calling upon God only, in the Name of Christ.

1 Iohn 5. 14.

Q. How many parts of prayer are there?

A. 3. Cõfession, Petition, & thanksgiving

Q. VVhat pattern of prayer have we?

A. The Lords Prayer.

Lords Prayer.

Q. How many things are to be considered in this prayer?

Matth. 6. 9.

A. Three, the Preface, the Prayer it self, and the conclusion.

Parts of it.

Q. For the Prayer it self, how many petitions are in it?

A. Six, three concerning Gods Glory, and three for our necessities.

Petitions.

Q. VVhat learn we by this prayer?

A. Both what we should pray for; & how, namely, with preparation, faith, love, reverence, zeal, confidence, and continuance.

Private helps.

Q. VVhich be the private helps?

[a] Gen. 24. 63.
[b] Deut. 17. 19.
[c] Gen. 18. 17, 17.

A. [a] Private prayer, [b] reading, family-exercise,

exercise, and the rest.

Q. *Which be the lets of a godly life?*

A. They are many: but for the most part, they are either from the [d] weakning of faith, or the neglect of the means.

Lets of godliness.
[d] Rev.2.4,5.
Falls.

Q. *But what if a true Christian fall into sin after he hath repented?*

A. He must then renew his Repentance, and Covenant with God.

Renewed repentance
2 Cor.7. 8,9, 10,11.

Q. *But may he not fall finally?*

A. No, for he hath promise of perseverance.

Perseverance.
Phi.1.6.

The fourth estate of immortality.

Q. *What becomes of a man at his death?*

A. The body goeth to the grave, the soul to the place thereof, till the Judgment.

Death.
Eccl.12. 9.
Iudgement.

Q. *Who shall be the Judge of the world?*

A. Christ, for it is the last part of his Kingly office.

Iudge.
2 Tim.4 1.
1 Cor.15.25.

Q. *What shall be the preparation to the Judgement?*

A. The Resurrection of the dead, and change of the living.

Resurrection.
Acts 24 15.
1 Cor. 15.

Q. *What shall then be the estate of the godly?*

A. Eternall life in Glory.

Mat.25 46.

Q. *What shall be the estate of the wicked?*

A. Everlasting damnation.

Eternall life and death.
Math.25.46.

Reve. 20. 6

Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first Resurrection: for on such the second death hath no power.

FINIS.

Q. Which be the works of a godly life?

A. They are many: but for a most [illegible] part they are either from their weakness [illegible] or else by reason of their corruption.

Q. But what if a true Christian fall into some sin, he doth repent?

A. He must then renew his Repentance and Faith towards God.

Q. But may he not fall finally?

A. No, for he hath promise of preservation.

The fourth part of Christian Religion.

Q. What becomes of a man at his death?

A. The body goeth to the grave, the soul to the place thereof, till the Judgement.

Q. Who shall be the Judge of the world?

A. Christ, for it is the last part of his Kingly office.

Q. What shall be the proceeding in the Judgement?

A. The Resurrection of the dead, and a [illegible] change of this life.

Q. What shall then be the estate of the godly?

A. Eternal life in glory.

Q. What shall be the estate of the wicked?

A. Everlasting damnation.

Page 20.

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